



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949

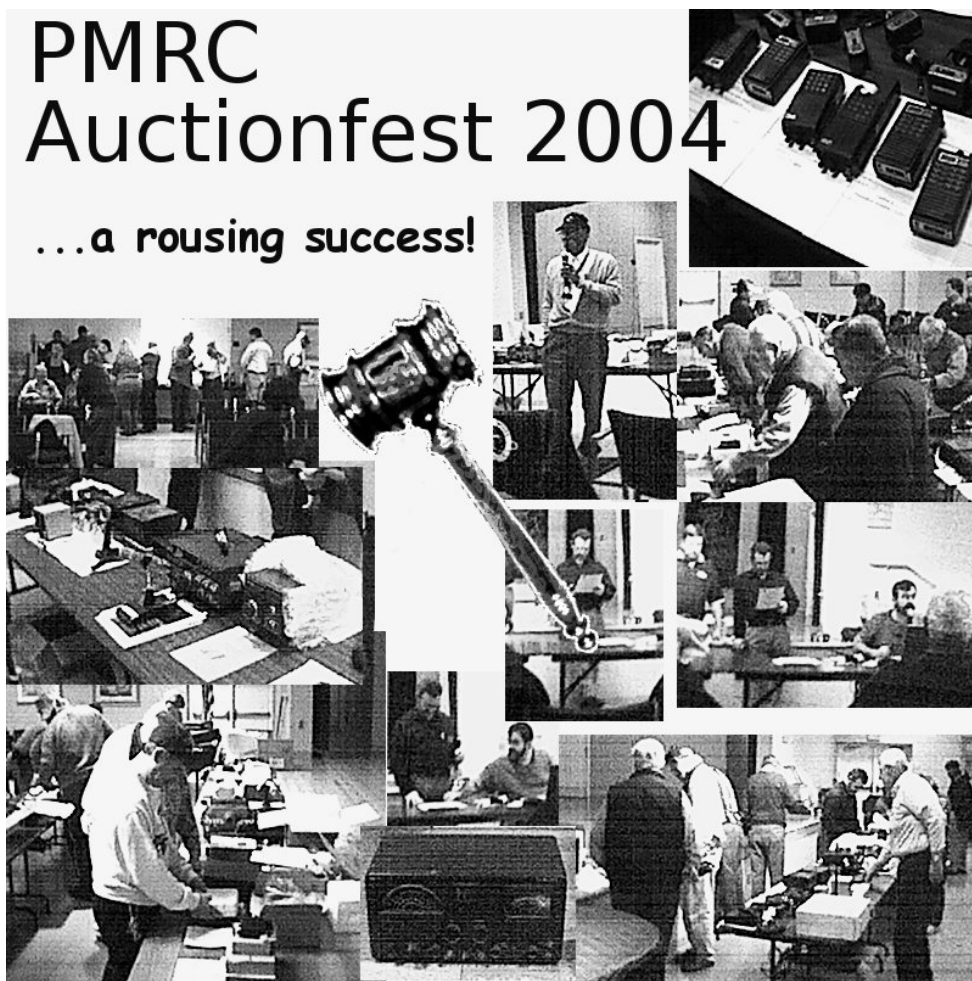
Volume 55 Number 2

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

February 2005

PMRC Auctionfest 2004

...a rousing success!



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The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

In memory of Sam Kunceovich N3QIE - Blurb artist 1958-2004

Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net**at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

License Examinations

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at **Northeast High School,**

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M. Sharp!** Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

Club Stations

W3QV Club Repeater - Trustee: W3BBB

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz ⇄ 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L

W3AA at Northeast High School - Trustee: WU3I

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA

W3EM - Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

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Committees

Archives: NG3P
Audit: NS3K
Awards: open

Blurb folding:
WB3KOJ & WB3KOH
Directory: WB3KOJ
DX: N3MT
Emerg.Coar.: K3HWE
Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: K3XS
Membership: W3LEN
Net Control: KB3IV
Publicity: W3RM
Program: Club VP

Public Service: open
Refreshments: W3AOK
Repeater: W3BBB
Skywarn: WX3PHI
Sunshine: N3GLU
Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: ND3Q
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
Welcome: K3CJ.

W3AA coverage in QST

ARRL members may have noted page 21 of their February issue of QST, with a short article by our own president Al W3STW, describing the work PMRC is doing with the SPARC program at Northeast High School.

We think perhaps the QST staff were "Foxed" by the quality image composition of the accompanying photo identifying ND3Q and W3STW presenting a CSEC to their student Alena Martiez-Hart KB3LDV...they credited it to "WTXF-Fox 29". You can see the photo in the February QST or page 4 of the June 2004 Blurb.

Tsunami Follow-up

The January Blurb carried flash coverage of the involvement of the VU4RBI/VU4NRO DXpedition team in providing emergency communications in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami in southeast Asia.

A *Sify News* [article](#) December 31 referred to Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI/VU4RBI, as "Angel of the Seas" for her team's efforts. Prasad was on the air from VU4RBI running DXpedition contacts when the earthquake struck. "Tremors!" she reportedly shrieked into the microphone before abruptly leaving the air and her fifth-floor hotel room.

The team then immediately shifted into emergency communication

mode. Re-establishing an emergency-powered station outside their hotel, Prasad and others diligently operated around the clock to pass health-and-welfare messages from panicked residents and visitors in Port Blair. ARRL reported that at times they even had to dodge pieces of falling concrete to get the message through to the outside world.

Sify News also reported that a grateful Indian army supplied the team with gear and batteries as they organized an emergency network to pass health and welfare traffic and assist relief and rescue operations.

Radio amateurs had not been permitted to operate in the Andamans since 1987, but the ban was lifted in November. "We arrived here on December 15 to support Andamans as a radio country ... Amateur stations across the world wanted a footprint in these beautiful islands...I did not expect a disaster like this. It is no longer a game and now we must help " Prasad told Agency France-Presse in the capital of Port Blair.

A *Washington Post* [article](#), "Wave of Destruction, Wave of Salvation," by correspondent Rama Lakshmi, told how Prasad reestablished contact with Indian mainland amateurs to let them--and the world--know what had happened and that the team members were all okay. "I immediately abandoned my expedition and told all radio operators [presumably those still trying to log VU4] to stop disturbing me," the *Post* account quotes her as saying. "I was only on emergency communication from then on." She subsequently offered her team's expertise to local

government officials, some of whom didn't even know what ham radio was.

An Orland Sentinel article described the experiences of team member Charly Harpole K4VUD/9HS0ZCW/VU3CHE, who had been visiting the Dxpeditition. After helping out during the initial emergency period, Charly reunited with his wife at her family's home in Thailand, where he continued handling emergency traffic.

New Power/Distance Record: 13 Million Miles per Watt!

Feel like you just don't have enough power on HF to get out, sometimes?

Bill Tippet, W4ZV, of New London, NC correctly copied code word OMAHA from the N2XE beacon transmitting from Wappingers Falls, NY with a peak carrier power of .0000406 watts on 3.5455 MHz.

With the distance between the two stations being 546.8 miles, the power/distance ratio of the contact was a staggering 13,467,980 miles per watt. Tippet used a Ten Tec Orion Transceiver with a 1000 foot Beverage antenna, while the beacon station was a heavily attenuated Elecraft K1 feeding a dipole off-center, 45 feet above ground level. The beacon was measured using an Agilent 8563EC Spectrum Analyzer at 40.6 microwatts.

The N2XE Beacon Project was started in December, 2004 by Paul Stroud, AA4XX, Raleigh, NC and John Ceccherelli, N2XE. The beacon transmits a unique code word each evening, and receiving stations include the code word in their report. The word is published the following morning. If you'd like to give it a try yourself, the beacon schedules are posted daily on the QRP-L reflector at <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRP-L>.

Powell resigns, ARRL reacts

(from ARRL reports)--FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell [announced](#) on January 21 that he'll step down, effective "sometime in March." Powell's resignation comes just one day after President George W. Bush's inauguration, although we're pretty sure he was trying to avoid coverage of the event in the *Blurb*. (20th of the month is still our submissions deadline, people!) Powell (son of Secretary of State Colin Powell) joined the FCC in 1997 and became its chairman two days after President Bush was sworn in for his first term in 2001.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, had called Powell's performance "a deep disappointment" after some initial optimism. While the League is not unhappy about Powell's departure--especially given his unabashed cheerleading on behalf of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) initiative—they are also concerned about who his replacement might be.

"It's no secret that we thought Chairman Powell was going entirely in the wrong direction on BPL and dragging the other commissioners and FCC staff along--willing or not--because he was, after all, the chairman," Sumner said. "A new chairman might be a chance for a fresh start."

Last October when the FCC adopted new Part 15 rules for BPL, Powell called it "a banner day." While conceding that BPL will affect some spectrum users, including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there," the chairman implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

Powell listed the Commission's adoption of BPL rules among the "[policy highlights](#)" of his tenure. "Broadband to power plugs would lower prices, expand deployment," the chairman's list of accomplishments asserts.

Possibilities to replace Powell include the other Republican members of the five-member FCC--Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a staunch BPL supporter, and Kevin J. Martin. Speculation also has been raised about various candidates outside the commissioners. "We look forward to the opportunity to work with the new chairman, whoever that may be," Sumner said.

As FCC chairman, Powell also has been in the forefront of enforcing the Commission's rules on indecency, largely through imposing huge fines on violators. He also supported changes in media owner-

ship rules that permitted even greater concentration in the ownership of broadcasting outlets.

Powell's formal resignation announcement followed widespread reports in the media that he would be leaving. *Communications Daily* said the chairman's last day would be March 10.

Don't blame the Sun!

The recent spate of strange Sudden Ionospheric Disturbances, or SIDs, have not been caused by solar flares or the like, but rather from GRBs - Gamma Ray Bursts - from very distant objects, like several hundred light years away. The biggest recent event was on December 27, 2004 when a massive gamma ray burst hit the earth about 2130Z from a Magnetar called SGR-1806. This GRB was so powerful that it was able to ionize our ionosphere, just like a solar flare, and cause ionospheric absorption down to the VLF frequencies. You can see the absorption peaks at VLF at <http://aavso.org> - click on the "GCN#2932" button for the SID plots. The GRB monitoring community has a Web archive at http://gcn.gsfc.nasa.gov/gcn3_archive.html. This was an explosion that occurred 200+ years ago and the shockwave of gamma rays is so powerful, it was able to ionize our E and F layers and absorb VLF propagation.

Pretty impressive.

(Thanks, Paul NA5N, via ARRL Contest Rate Sheet and W3RM)

from EPA section news:

(January 14, 2005)

W3HK Former EPA Section Communications Manager becomes SK

Former EPA SCM George Van Dyke PhD, W3HK, died earlier this month. Van Dyke served as Eastern Pennsylvania Section Communications Manager from 1967 to 1974 and again from 1975-1980. A retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, he was a member of Q.C.W.A., ARMY MARS, N.A.R.F.E., and the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club in Philadelphia. At 89 Van Dyke still held an Official Relay Station Appointment.

EPA Assistant Section Manager Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, credits Van Dyke with showing a lot of guidance and leadership. Under Van Dyke, Josuweit served as Phone Activities Manager and Section Emergency Coordinator.

ARRL Vice President and former EPA SM Kay Craigie, N3KN, recalls George "always the gentleman in the way he represented the ARRL and ham radio, and that he had a fine sense of humor."

VanDyke is survived by his wife Alberta, daughters Dr. Judith Van Dyke Scourfield, Dr. Kathryn Van Dyke Hayes and Deborah Van Dyke Mullin; brother of Paul

R. Van Dyke and by 7 grandchildren. Memorial contributions in Dr. Van Dyke's name may be made to American Diabetes Assn., One Plymouth Meeting-Suite 250, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1316.

Now here's a NEETS idea

The **United States Navy Electricity & Electronics Training Series - (NEETS)** is available as a collection of 24 PDF files. It covers electronics, propagation, feed lines, and antennas, etc. Lots of good stuff!

<http://www.phy.davidson.edu/>



221st Monthly Phil-Mont

VE Exam Session Statistics

for January 6, 2005

Two candidates took five elements, and we had two new amateurs. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**, and the other participating VEs were :

Stephen H. Ewall **WB3IRC**

Gene Dinardi **N3XKE**

Bob Freer **W3YLT**

Jim McCloskey **NS3K**

Upcoming Exam Sessions:

February 3, 2005, March 3, 2005, April 7, 2005

(See page 2 for details)

[instrumentation/NEETS.htm](http://www.electronics-tutorials.com/instrumentation/NEETS.htm) is the URL.

Another electronics training site is <http://www.electronics-tutorials.com>

which is also highly recommended and covers a lot of ground.

(Thanks, Dave W7AQK and Gary WA6DTX, via ARRL Contest Rate Sheet and W3RM)

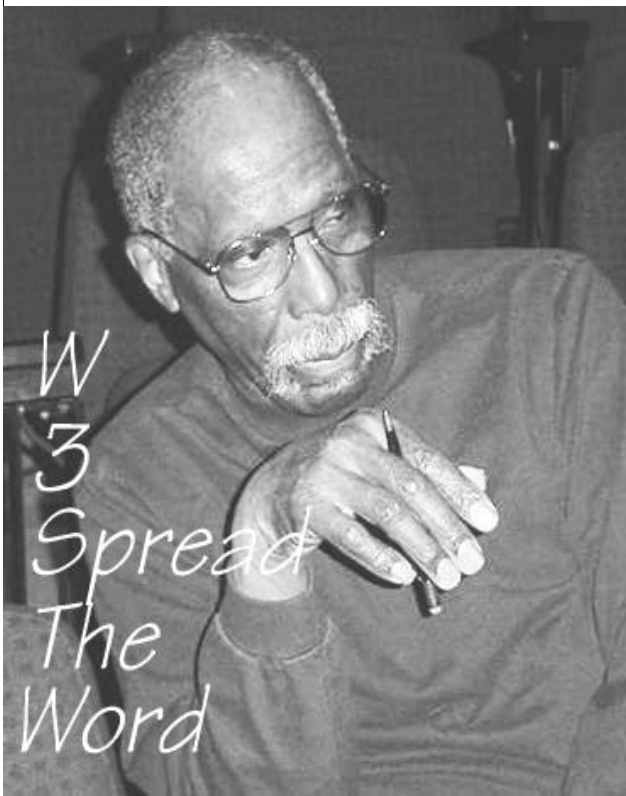


photo: WA3KIO

Spread The Word

--de Al W3STW, PMRC President

Greetings and good tidings to all.

With 8.33 % of 2005 gone 'tis not too late to wish you all a healthy, happy and wealthy New Year.

Taking a quick look, in my rear view mirror, the year 2004, was an active and productive year for the Club.

Fulfilling our commitment to

the Jack Haring Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Auctionfest,

VE testing,

the various Public Service Walks and MS150 Bike Tour,

Field day,

Amateur Radio classes, at North East H.S.,

the operation of W3AA/W3YC

the Club repeater W3QV,

places to hold the General (the refreshments were outstanding) and Board of Directors meetings,

a dozen issues of the Blurb,

absolutely marvelous Membership attendance

...and because the finger print smudges on the rear view mirror obscure my view, a few more activities that should be mentioned, go unmentioned at this time. All of the above give positive testimony that during 2004, the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club was "alive and well".

We are off to another great start as evidenced by the positive participation in the Jack Haring Memorial Scholarship Fund, the annual Auctionfest and response to renewing Club membership. If you're on board, stay on board, if you're not, it's too late to join. I'm on board. If someone should ask you what did the Club do last year; just show them this months "Spread The Word"...

Hope to see you all at the next General meeting. 73 Al Tribble W3STW.

January 2005 Board Meeting

The Board of the Directors for the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club held a meeting at the WDRV radio station in Hatboro, PA, on January 5, 2005. President Al W3STW presiding called the meeting to order at 7:47 P.M. with the following attending and voting: Al W3STW, Jim W3BBB, Maggie K3XS, Mike N3MT, Eric N3YXZ, Dick W3RM, Bill W3AOK, Ed KB3IV, Steve WU3I, Ra KB3JCR.

Al announced the new board members and office chairs. Dick W3RM provided the annual finances of 2004 and the draft budget for 2005. He also reported that Phil-Mont has a few new members. The Scholarship Fund is coming along and the Club is still looking for donations. The board approved the Treasurer's proposed budget for 2005.

Steve WU3I reported on the club's station W3AA. The station is working fine. Steve informed the board that there is a controller for the rotator that is going to be used for the W3AA tower available on EBay. After Discussion, the board authorized WU3I to bid up to \$200 on a rotator controller for the W3AA tower.

Maggie K3XS reported on the status of the Blurb. She invites

photos and articles to be submitted for consideration on being published in the newsletter. She is looking for artists to design the front cover and other graphics or cartoons.

Net Control Chairman Ed KB3IV reported on the status of the nets. The nets are going well and we also have new volunteer Net Controls for the 2005 schedule. The nets have enjoyed increased participation on the HF nets and would like everyone to join in on Sunday mornings.

Mike N3MT reported on the Youth and DX committees. The club is looking for new Youth members. Propagation might be up and down but the DX is out

there.

Jim W3BBB reported on the Repeater System. The Repeater is in good shape. There is now full-time PL on 2 meters including during Net Time. Jim expressed appreciation to Eric N3YXZ for help with the repeater and programming the controller.

After Discussion and upon motion, the board appointed Ed KB3IV as Assistant Secretary.

There being no further business, upon motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric D. Marano, N3YXZ,
Secretary



Dues and Directory Update

Dues are due!

For those of you who have not paid, this is your last chance to update your directory information

February Birthdays

01 Charlotte Feierman (XYL K3EUI)
03 Barry Feierman - K3EUI
04 Eunice Bohlander (XYL W3VVS)
John Geliebter - N3RBJ
05 Mike Concordia - WB3KAC
08 Gerald Dubzak - N3RPW
09 Robin Morgan - (XYL W7MM)
10 Sharon Masarsky - N3GLU
17 Sam Smith - K3GBA
18 Bill Mannino - WA3NSP
Mim Roesman (XYL W3LKI)
23 Gene DiNardi - N3XKE
24 Carmen DeCicco - KE3QB
Larry Pollack - N3VLC
25 Steve Pavlou - KC2HGC

W3RM AWAITS YOUR MONEY!

Membership stats will return in the April Blurb

Date	February 2005 with PMRC
Tue 01	
Wed 02	Groundhog Day – PMRC Board meeting at WRDV
Thu 03	VE Exams at Northeast High School – see p2
Fri 04	
Sat 05	
Sun 06	NCS: 2m:W3YXZ HF: W3YXZ
Mon 07	
Tue 08	
Wed 09	PMRC general meeting at Masonic Village – see p2
Thu 10	
Fri 11	
Sat 12	
Sun 13	NCS: 2m:N3OWM HF:WA3KIO
Mon 14	Valentine's Day
Tue 15	
Wed 16	
Thu 17	
Fri 18	
Sat 19	
Sun 20	NCS: 2M:KB3IV HF:KB3IV
Mon 21	President's Day
Tue 22	
Wed 23	
Thu 24	
Fri 25	
Sat 26	
Sun 27	NCS: 2m:KB3JCR HF:W3STW
Mon 28	

First Class Mail

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The Blue